

# Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

## 2008 Refuge Deer Hunt Regulations



Public deer hunting by shotgun and bow is permitted on the Refuge on hunting dates listed below and in hunting areas shown on the map. A signed Refuge Hunt permit and a valid State hunting license shall be carried when hunting deer on the Refuge. Signing the permit means you agree to abide by all terms and conditions of that permit including all federal and state applicable laws, rules and regulations. **Violations of regulations will result in the cancellation of your hunt permit and may lead to prosecution in Federal Court.**

**Hunters utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, equipment, bag limits, vehicles and their contents during compliance checks by Refuge Officers, State Wildlife Officers, and other state/local law enforcement officers. Inspections are conducted to ensure the safety of hunters and staff.**

### Season and Bag Limits

Early season: October: 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18,  
Late season: November 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22  
No rain dates will be scheduled (see Cancellations and Closures below).

Either sex deer may be taken all season, per State and federal regulations. DMAP tags are available. For more information, refer to the hunt package.

### Scouting

A scouting day will be held on September 27 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. The check station will be open from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for questions or guidance. Only hunters with signed permits and a compass will be allowed into hunting areas on the scouting day. Guests will not be allowed to enter with permit holders. **Hunters may not have any firearms in possession on scouting day.**

### Hunting Hours

Hunters will be admitted into the refuge approximately one hour before legal hunting hours. Hunters should not arrive at the entrance gates before 4:00 am. Hunters must leave the refuge and sign out no later than one hour after legal hunting hours, unless the hunter is in the process of dragging deer.

### Speed Limits

All refuge roads have an established 25mph speed limit, unless otherwise posted (i.e. 15mph at entrance to Corapeake Ditch Road). Obey the speed limits – they will be enforced for your safety as well as for the sake of the small wildlife that use the roads.

### Refuge and Deer Check-in/Check-out

All hunters must sign in and sign out at one of the three refuge entrances each time they enter and leave the refuge. When an entrance reaches capacity, that area is closed to all other hunters for the day, even if a hunter checks out. **All successful hunters must take their deer to the deer check station located at the refuge maintenance area, 3216 Desert Road, Suffolk, VA.**

Failure to sign in and/or out results in unnecessary search and rescue proceedings. Failure to check deer at the check station will result in permit revocation and prosecution in Federal Court. We need the data and appreciate your participation.

### Firearms and Ammunition

- Only 20 gauge shotgun or larger, and/or bow and arrow in accordance with State and federal regulations is permitted.
- Hunters may use and have in their possession only buckshot and/or rifled slugs – no rifles, no muzzleloaders or associated ammunition may be in your possession.
- All other firearms are prohibited and may not be in possession.
- You must unload AND encase or dismantle firearms transported via motorized vehicles on all refuge roads.
- Possession of loaded firearms (includes any ammunition in the chamber, magazine or clip) on or within 50 feet of a refuge road including roads closed to vehicles is prohibited.

### Hunter Orange

All hunters are required to wear a minimum of 400 square inches of solid-colored blaze orange on their chest, shoulders, back, and head during the hunt. Camouflage hunter orange does not meet this requirement. A hat alone does not meet this requirement - a vest or other upper body garment is recommended to meet the requirement.

### Tree Stands

Tree stands must be removed from the refuge at the end of each hunt day. Hunters will not be permitted to return for any part of their stand. The use of nails, screws, or any other thing that damages the tree is not allowed.

### Foot Bridges and Car Top Boats

A few of the deeper ditches have foot bridges to facilitate access to hunt areas. All require caution when crossing and are slippery when wet. Car top boats may also be used to cross the ditches.

### Cancellations and Closures

On all hunt dates, some portions of the

refuge will remain open to hunters, unless unprecedented high fire danger or extreme weather conditions (hurricane, nor'easter) warrant cancellation. Specific hunt areas may be closed due to management activities, emergencies, or inclement weather that render refuge roads unsafe to travel. If any hunt dates are cancelled or areas are closed, no other rain "make up" dates will be provided. Some areas may be closed to vehicles, but not to foot traffic and hunting.

Please call 757/986-3705 if the status of any scheduled hunt date or area is questionable. This hunt information line will provide the latest hunt information 24 hours a day effective noon, September 26.

### Also Prohibited

- Refuge access at any location other than through designated entrances at Jericho Lane, Railroad, and Corapeake Ditch Roads.
- The use of boats on Lake Drummond, the Feeder Ditch, or the Dismal Swamp Canal for any reason while in the refuge on your hunt permit.
- Hunting on any area that is not designated as part of the refuge hunt area by signs or current hunt map.
- Shooting from or across a refuge road including roads closed to vehicles.
- Driving motorized vehicles off the roads and/or on roads closed to vehicles.
- Parking vehicles in any manner which blocks roads (including roads closed to vehicles).
- The use of permanent markers, such as paint, to locate stands or trails.
- Baiting or hunting over bait.
- Possession of alcoholic beverages.
- Camping and all overnight use.
- Possession of dogs on the refuge during any designated hunt date without a valid dog retrieval permit. If you are retrieving dogs under a dog retrieval permit you may not possess a firearm or bow.
- Possession of rifles, pistols, or dogs.
- Littering, fires and the use of boat trailers.

### Safety and Other Regulations

1. In case of an emergency call 911.
2. As a requirement of your permit, you must carry a compass in your possession at all times. Know how to use it.

**Great Dismal Swamp  
National Wildlife Refuge**  
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[www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp)